GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4415
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2002
BOFORS PAY OFF
MAHBOOB ZAHEDI

Will the Minister of PERSONNEL,PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Special Court passed severe strictures against CBI for having delayed the registration of FIR in the Bofors pay-off case;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Hon`ble Court also observed that there was a massive cover-up operation at the Government level to bury the truth; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND M OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND SPACE. (SMT.VASUNDHARA RAJE)

(a) to (c): While disposing of the petitions filed by the accused for dismissal of the charge-sheet on 29.8.2002, and issuing order on charge on 14.11.2002, the Court of Special Judge, New Delhi has, Inter-alia, said that CBI delayed the registration of FIR for a considerable period, between April 1988 and January 1990. About the role of the then Governemnt, the Court has commented that, `â€¦â€¦â€¦ there was a massive cover-up operation at the Government level so that the truth about the pay-offs/bribes is not revealed. CBI also seems to be utilized for the purpose.`

(d): Following the directions of the Supreme Court issued on 18.12.97 in Vineet Narain`s case, for ensuring that the CBI functions effectively and efficiently and is viewed as a non-partisan agency, the Central Government has;

(i) Constituted a Selection Board headed by the Central Vigilance Commissioner to recommend senior level appointments for the Bureau;

(ii) Entrusted the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) to periodically review the performance of CBI;

(iii) Introduced in the Parliament the Central Vigilance Commission Bill, 1999, which provides for assigning the superintendence by CVC of the working of CBI for ensuring visible objectivity in its functioning.

(iv) In exercise of its powers under Section 3(1) of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988, set up a Special Court on 8.2.2002 for holding day-to day trial of the Bofors case.